



Sam Goes Trucking

Sam is sitting in his dad's Mack truck, model R-600.

"Where are we taking the truck today, Dad?"

"To the **pier** to pick up a load of fish. Then we'll take the load

to the market. The fish must be kept cold, Sam, so we'll be using the **reefer** today. That's what we call the refrigerator trailer."

Now they hitch the trailer to the cab. The electrical cord, called the **pigtail**, is hooked up so the trailer's lights will work. Then the air hoses are attached for the trailer's brakes.





Truckers use the **CB radio** to talk about weather conditions and traffic and just to pass the time. When a trucker uses the CB to talk with other truckers, he gives himself a special name. That's his call **handle**. Sam's dad's call handle is Big Stuff. Sam thinks his handle should be Little Stuff.

Before they hit the road, they have to put air in the tires, check the oil, and have the tank filled with **diesel** fuel.



At the pier, the fish are taken from the boats, packed in crates, and then wheeled into the reefer.

"Dad, I'm starving. Let's get lunch."

"Good idea. I know just the place—Cindy's Truck Stop."



They sit at the counter with the other truckers.



After lunch they check the oil and are ready to hit the road again.

Backing up a large trailer with a full load takes a lot of skill.





The **forklift** makes unloading much faster than doing it by hand.

"Want to help me fill out the log, Sam?" The **log** is a record of how many hours a trucker drives each day and where he goes.

"Let's push this **diesel** back home, Sam."

"Good idea, Dad."



Adapted from an article and photographs by Henry Horenstein